

Slain Panther To Be Exhumed

PRX 2/6/70

CHICAGO, Feb. 5 (AP)—The Justice Department requested today exhumation of the body of a slain Black Panther Party leader for an independent autopsy to aid in a federal grand jury investigation.

Judge Edwin A. Robson of U.S. District Court said he would issue an order Friday for examination of the body of Fred Hampton, slain Dec. 4 in a police raid.

Federal officials acted because of conflicting conclusions reached in autopsies conducted by a coroner's pathologist and one named by the Black Panthers.

The coroner's pathologist, George N. Christopoulos, testified at inquest last month that he found no trace of drugs in Hampton's body.

But Dr. Victor Levine, appointed by the Black Panthers, said his autopsy showed Hampton's body contained three times the amount of the normal dose of the sleep-inducing drug Seconal, which is a barbiturate.

Levine, who was not called to testify at the inquest, said the heavy dose of the drug indicated that Hampton was asleep at the time state's attorney's police raided the apartment in which Hampton and another Black Panther were slain, and, therefore, could not have shot at police.

The coroner's jury, presided over by a special deputy coroner, Martin S. Gerber, ruled after a 12-day inquest that the police shootings of Hampton, 21, and his cohort, Mark Clark, 22, of Poeria, were justifiable homicide.